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cont

8. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer system in communication with an information management system and managing document distribution, comprising:
a processor storing in a storage unit documents and job attribute information of the documents to manage targets to which the documents are distributed, retrieving master job attribute information of the documents from the information management system, determining whether the job attribute information of each document conflicts with the master job attribute information, and updating the job attribute information of each document when determined that the job attribute information of each document conflicts with the master job attribute information.

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9. (NEW) A system to manage electronic documents of jobs, comprising:
servers connected to a network and storing master job attribute information; and
a processor in communication with the servers via the network and storing in a storage unit the electronic documents and job attribute information of the documents, retrieving the master job attribute information of the documents from the servers, and updating the job attribute information of each document responsive to a conflict between the job attribute information of each document and the master attribute information.

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed December 19, 2000 claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (US Patent No. 5,893,114) in view of Domen et al. (US Patent No. 5,504,676).

In the final Office Action mailed December 19, 2000 the Examiner noted that claims 1-8 were pending, and rejected claims 1-8. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 have been amended, new claim 9 has been added and, thus, claims 1-9 remain pending for reconsideration, which is requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejections are traversed.

DRAWINGS

Figures 12 is amended according to the Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings filed concurrently herewith. In particular, the label --(PRIOR ART)- is inserted in Fig. 12 consistent with Fig. 12 description on page 8, lines 2-4 of the present Application.

PRIOR ART

Hashimoto

The Examiner asserts in item 4, on page 3, bullets 1 and 2, of the Office Action that Hashimoto discloses acquiring a document from a document management server (*see e.g.*, col. 2, lines 49-62; col. 4, lines 20-22 and 45-55). The Examiner appears to correlate retrieval of document data 114 and management information therefor of Hashimoto (col. 4, lines 50-51) to “master attribute information” retrieved in the present invention.

In contrast to Hashimoto, the present invention manages “documents of jobs” (emphasis added). Therefore, in contrast to Hashimoto the present invention provides maintaining, retrieving and updating “attribute information relating to the jobs” using an information management device maintaining “master attribute information” (emphasis added). In particular, the attribute information relating to the jobs and included in the documents can be updated by the “master attribute information.”

Domen

Domen relates to job processing using forms of a predetermined input format. In particular, Domen accommodates job processing when a form’s format is updated by separating a form’s format information from processing of data input in the form (col. 3, line

57 to col. 4, line 17 and col. 15, lines 3-6). However, in contrast to Domen, the present invention provides updating “attribute information relating to the jobs” of each document when determined that the attribute information of each document conflicts with “master attribute information” (emphasis added).

In the Response to Arguments on page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Domen in col. 15, lines 45-50 and col. 16, lines 8-14 imply conflict checking. However, col. 15, lines 45-50 disclose that form format information, such as a processing formula, are retrieved to process input data. Domen is silent on checking whether there is any conflict between the old form format information and new form format information because Domen achieves the object of the invention without performing such conflict checking. In particular, Domen separates form format information from input data (data input to the form) processing so that when form format information changes, same processed input data or input data processing can be used (col. 4, lines 10- 17; and col. 15, lines 3-6). If the form format information has been changed, the retrieved form format information already includes the changed (updated) form format information, thereby obviating conflict checking (col. 15, line 59 to col. 16, line 14).

DISTINCTIONS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION OVER THE PRIOR ART

In contrast to the relied upon references, the present invention provides a document management system to store documents associated with jobs, the documents having “attribute information relating to the jobs,” and to update the “attribute information relating to the jobs” responsive to a conflict between “master attribute information” and the “attribute information included in the document” (emphasis added). For example, for the updating the master attribute information can be retrieved from a server on the network. (See page 10, lines 8-21 of the present Application).

Independent claims 1, 7 and 8 are amended to clarify the distinguishing features of the present invention. Using the recitation of the claims, the present invention is patentably distinguishing as follows:

In contrast to the foregoing references, the present invention (as recited in each amended independent claim 1, 7 and 8, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) comprises:

a document management apparatus managing electronic documents of jobs by being connected to an information management device maintaining master attribute information for a plurality types of attribute information included in said documents through a communication network, the attribute information relating to the jobs (emphasis added).

Support for the claim amendments can, for example, be found on page 8, lines 7-12; page 10, lines 4-21; and Figs. 4 and 5.

Further, new claim 9 provides an alternate recitation of the present invention as embodied in a system and is patentably distinguishing over the foregoing references for the reasons discussed above. Support for new claim 9 can, for example, be found on page 10, lines 4-7 and Figs. 1-3 and description thereof in the present Application.

A benefit of the patentably distinguishing features is to provide a system in which, as objects to be distributed, documents that include attribute information of documents and the attribute information relate to a corporate organization for distribution of the objects can be updated reflecting current corporate organization information.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 and allowance of claims 1-8 and new claim 9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

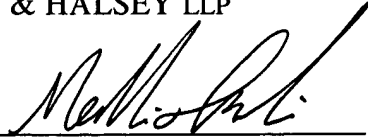
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In light of the amendments and remarks presented above, Applicant submits that this Application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 19, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 as follows.

Please **ADD** new claim 9 as follows.

Recitation of all pending claims is provided for reference convenience.

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A document management apparatus managing electronic documents of jobs by being connected to an information management device maintaining master attribute information for a plurality types of attribute information included in said documents through a communication network, the attribute information relating to the jobs, said apparatus comprising:

a document storage section storing said documents;

a communication section acquiring information from a device connected to said communication network;

a determination section determining, for each document stored in said document storage section by reading out the master attribute information maintained by said information management device through said communication section, whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master attribute information; and

a rewriting section rewriting any of the attribute information included in the document when said determination section determines that the attribute information conflicts with the master attribute information.

2. (TWICE AMENDED) A document apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said document is a document including corporate organization codes as well as corporate organization names as attribute information for managing targets to be distributed of a document as an object for distribution;

said determination section determines that attribute information included in a document conflicts with the master attribute information in a case where the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein, and also in a case where the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein; and

said rewriting section rewrites corporate organization names in said document when it is determined by said determination section that the attribute information include in said document conflicts with the master attribute information because the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein, and rewrites corporate organization codes in said document when it is determined by the determination section that the attribute information included in said document conflicts with the master attribute information because the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein.

3. (TWICE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said document as an object for distribution is correlated to job information;

a second information management device maintaining second master attribute information in which a corporate organization code or a corporate organization name can be retrieved from job information is connected to the communication network; said document managing apparatus further comprising:

a retrieving section retrieving, for each of said document stored in the document storage section, a corporate organization code or a corporate organization name correlated to job information related to the document as an object for distribution with the document related

thereto from the second master attribute information maintained by said second information management device through said communication section; and

a second rewriting section rewriting contents of said document, when a combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name retrieved by said retrieving section does not coincide with the combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name included in said document.

4. (as ONCE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an electronic mail outputting section outputting, when a document is rewritten, an electronic mail to notify changing of an attribute information in the document to each department identified by the attribute information included in with rewritten document.

5. (as ONCE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising an electronic mail outputting section outputting, when a document is rewritten, an electronic mail to notify changing of attribute information in the document to each department identified by the attribute information included in the rewritten document.

6. (as ONCE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising an electronic mail outputting section outputting, when a document is rewritten, an electronic mail to notify changing of attribute information in the document to each department identified by the attribute information included in the rewritten document.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium with a computer program recorded therein causing a computer having a communication section function as a document management apparatus managing electronic documents relating to jobs by being connected to an information management device maintaining master attribute information for a plurality types of attribute information included in said documents through a

communication network, the attribute information relating to the jobs,[] said apparatus comprising:

a document storage section storing said documents;

a determination section determining for each document stored in said document storage section by reading out the master attribute information maintained by said information management device through said communication section whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master attribute information; and

a rewriting section rewriting any of the attribute information included in the document when said determination section determines that the attribute information conflicts with the master attribute information.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer system in communication with an information management system and managing document distribution, comprising:

a processor storing in a storage unit documents and job attribute information of the documents [for managing] to manage targets to which the documents are distributed, retrieving master job attribute information of the documents from the information management system, determining whether the job attribute information of each document conflicts with the master job attribute information, and updating the job attribute information of each document when determined that the job attribute information of each document conflicts with the master job attribute information.

9. (NEW) A system to manage electronic documents of jobs, comprising:

servers connected to a network and storing master job attribute information; and

a processor in communication with the servers via the network and storing in a storage unit the electronic documents and job attribute information of the documents, retrieving the master job attribute information of the documents from the servers, and updating the job

attribute information of each document responsive to a conflict between the job attribute information of each document and the master attribute information.

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FIG.12
(PRIOR ART)

ITEM NUMBER	CORPORATE ORGANIZATION CODE	CORPORATE ORGANIZATION NAME	REGION	PERSON IN CHARGE	COPIES
0001	1432	INFORMATION SYSTEM DEPARTMENT	KAWASAKI	TADASHI OHASHI	1
0002			MINAMITAMA		2
0003			NUMAZU		2